



Tennessee Highway Patrol

Professionalism • Integrity • Pride



2004



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Introduction

On behalf of the Troopers of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, I am respectfully submitting our application for the 2004 IACP Law Enforcement Challenge. I am pleased to share the accomplishments of an extraordinary division of the Tennessee Department of Safety, and how we have worked to make the roads and highways of Tennessee safe for our citizens and visitors. The Tennessee Highway Patrol's success is the result of professional men and women who are committed to serving the people of the great State of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) began serving the state over 75 years ago. The organization has seen tremendous change in all aspects of law enforcement including traffic crash investigation, criminal interdiction, dignitary protection, and enforcement of state and federal laws and regulations. The Tennessee Highway Patrol strives to be a leader in the targeted areas of occupant restraint, impaired driving, and speed enforcement. The THP is one of 15 state police/highway patrol agencies to earn accreditation from the Commission on the Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (C.A.L.E.A). This prestigious certification attests to the commitment of Troopers to conduct themselves with the utmost honor and integrity while completing all tasks in a thorough and professional manner.

The public can be assured that today's Trooper is the finest the state can provide. Troopers accept the responsibility and embrace the doctrine of protecting and preserving the lives and property of the citizens and visitors of our great state with *Professionalism, Integrity and Pride*.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Pitts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colonel Lynn Pitts
Tennessee Highway Patrol



POLICY AND GUIDELINES



Safety Belt Use Within the THP

There are several orders which address safety belt use within the Tennessee Highway Patrol. General Order 300 requires officers to comply with all traffic regulations while on patrol. In Tennessee, it is required by state law that individuals must use a safety belt while operating a motor vehicle. In addition, General Order 721 specifically requires officers to use safety belts while operating departmental vehicles.

General Order 300 – Patrol Procedures

During routine patrol duty assignments, members should continue roving patrol and parked observation patrol within their assigned zone(s). *When cruising, members should drive at a reasonable speed based on existing traffic/weather conditions, comply with all traffic regulations and educate motorists by example.* When parked to observe movement, whenever possible, members will place their patrol unit in a position from which they can clearly observe traffic in both directions and indicate to the motoring public that they are readily accessible for service or enforcement of traffic laws.

General Order 721 – Vehicle Usage

C. Employees operating or riding in a Departmental vehicle will utilize those safety restraint devices provided by the manufacturer at all times the vehicle is in motion.

D. When applicable, employees shall also ensure that civilian passengers or any other persons being transported in a Departmental vehicle are properly secured and are utilizing safety restraint devices provided by the manufacturer at all times the vehicle is in motion.

E. Ordinarily, the transport of children in Departmental vehicles is prohibited unless urgent and extenuating circumstances are present making it necessary for the immediate welfare and safety of the child. The following procedures will apply:

1. Children 12 years of age and under will be transported in the rear seat.
2. Children under the age of four (4) and weighing 40 pounds or less will be secured with an approved child safety seat in the rear seat, when available.
3. Transporting children under four (4) years of age or children weighing 40 pounds or less, in emergencies without a child safety seat, will be made when the totality of the circumstances dictate a transport is necessary. The child will be transported in the center of the rear seat using the safety equipment provided by the manufacturer.
4. If the child is so small that the manufacturer's safety equipments would not be suitable, the transport, in emergency situations, will be made keeping the safety of the child in mind.

Impaired Driving

The Tennessee Highway Patrol's Enforcement Guidelines regarding driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs are as follows:

General Order 501 – Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

A. Whenever practicable, a person determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be taken into custody and be delivered to the county jail for booking. In no instance will it be permissible to issue only a citation to appear for a DUI charge.

B. Arrest and processing of DUI suspects will be in accordance with T.C.A. 55-10-401 and procedures established by the Department of Safety.

C. A DUI suspect may request an independent blood test. If the suspect has submitted to the authorized test requested by the member, the member will ensure the suspect is provided with the test, if possible. If the DUI suspect has refused the test requested by the member, no independent test is required. The Officer, not the driver, selects the testing method to be used; thus a driver who agrees to a blood test but not the breath test offered by an officer violates the implied consent law.

D. The suspect is responsible for arranging and securing the independent test at his/her own expense.

Speeding

The Tennessee Highway Patrol's Enforcement Guidelines regarding speed and hazardous moving violations are as follows:

General Order 501 – Speed and Hazardous Moving Violations

A uniform (Single Offense) Citation, Multiple Offense Citation, or written warning may be issued.

Members should consider:

1. Whether the violation significantly affected other traffic.
2. If the operator's actions contributed to a traffic crash.
3. Other attendant factors such as weather conditions, other traffic present, and frequency of traffic crashes in the area.

Safety Belts and Child Passenger Safety Restraints

Effective July 1, 2004 two new occupant protection laws went into effect designed to save lives and reduce the economic impact resulting from traffic crashes on Tennessee highways. Law enforcement officials began executing Tennessee's primary seat belt law and new provisions to the existing child restraint law just in time to improve safety during one of the most heavily traveled holiday weekends of the year, the Fourth of July weekend.

"The purpose of enforcing safety restraint laws is to create safe passage on Tennessee roadways," said Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips. "While the primary enforcement of driver and occupant protection laws will help decrease the number of injuries and fatal motor vehicle crashes, the best front-line defense begins with the motorists themselves. Making sure you and your family are buckled up is one of the most effective measures in preventing injuries and loss of life."



Beginning July 1, in Tennessee, law enforcement officers can ticket drivers for not wearing a seat belt and all motor vehicle passengers must use a seat belt or the driver can be ticketed. In addition, children ages eight and under measuring less than five feet tall must be in the rear seat. Children under the age of one or weighing twenty pounds or less must be in a rear-facing child passenger restraint system. Children ages one through three and weighing greater than twenty pounds must be in a forward facing child passenger restraint system. Children ages four through eight and measuring less than five feet tall must be using a belt positioning system (booster seat). Children ages nine through twelve and measuring five feet tall or more when in a passenger motor vehicle must use a seat belt system. It is recommended that the child be placed in the rear seat.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol's Enforcement Guidelines regarding safety belt and child restraint violations are as follows:

General Order 501 – Safety Belt and Child Restraint Violations

A Uniform (Single Offense) Citation, Multiple Offense Citation or a written warning may be issued.



TRAINING



Tennessee Department of Safety Training Center

Several of the Department's educational services are located at the Tennessee Department of Safety Training Center. The center serves as the operations hub for the Training Division, Critical Incident Response Team (C.I.R.T.) Ordnance, Safety Education, D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T, Motorcycle Rider Education Program (MREP), and T.O.S.H.A. sections as well as the department's Video Production unit.

In July 2004, the Department of Safety merged its Commercial Vehicle Enforcement division into the Tennessee Highway Patrol. As a result of this merger, the majority of our training hours were spent cross-training all of the members of the THP in Commercial Vehicle Inspections and Enforcement. All THP commissioned officers completed 40 hours of training in Commercial Vehicle Inspections, North American Standards Part A (Driver-Only). This training covered numerous areas related to commercial vehicle law enforcement and driver document inspection, and included updates and changes in laws relating to speed enforcement, impaired driving and occupant protection. In addition, all personnel previously assigned to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVE) were converted into the ranks of the Highway Patrol, requiring cross-training for them as well.

Overall, 100% of sworn officers received traffic safety training over the past year.



Occupant Protection

In the specific category of Occupant Protection, the Training Division trained approximately 280 officers, with the majority of this training pertaining to Crash Investigation and being conducted during the Cadet School and the transitional period for our CVE officers. The remaining training in the category came from programs with our Safety Education Division, Governor's Highway Safety Office, and Operation Lifesavers conferences.

Impaired Driving

In the specific category of Impaired Driving, the Training Division trained approximately 122 officers, with the majority of this training being conducted during the Cadet School. Training also took place in this category with our Safety Education Division and with the Governor's Highway Safety Office.

Speed Enforcement

In the specific category of Speed Enforcement, training occurred for the Department in several different ways. First, 76 Cadets received speed enforcement training during the Cadet school in 2004. Secondly, all of our RADAR/Lidar Specialists throughout the State, approximately 25 officers, received a minimum of 24 hours of recertification training. Typically, updates and new training in speed enforcement is covered during the Annual Trooper In-Service.

Specialized Training Courses

In addition to Annual Trooper In-service training, Cadet Schools, and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Training, the Department of Safety Training Unit also provided courses in a number of other law enforcement and traffic safety related areas. A sample of the additional courses provided is listed in the table below.

Training Activity	Dates	Training Activity	Dates
C.I.R.T. CDR Class	January 7 - 9, 04	Crime Scene Investigation #2	July 26-30, 04
Mt. Juliet SWAT Shoot house	January 14-15, 04	AR15 Bushmaster, Glock 33	July 28-28, 04
AR15 Governors Detail	February 17 - 18, 04	Safety Education AARP	July 29, 2004
AR15 Governors Detail	March 9, 2004	Level VI Insp. Recertification	July 30, 2004
Field Training Officer School #1	April 12, 2004	Operation Lifesaver	July 30, 2004
MREP	April 14, 2004	School of Police Staff/Commnd	Aug. 2-30, 04
Field Training Officer School #2	April 15, 2004	FMCSA	Aug. 11-12, 04
Police Motorcycle Rider Recert.	April 26 - 30, 04	Dispatcher Ann. In-Service #3	Aug. 11-13, 04
Police Motorcycle Rider Recert.	April 28, 2004	Meth Awareness	Aug. 17, 04
Pupil Transportation In-Service	May 5 - 7, 04	APCO EMD Instructor	August 23-27, 04
CVE Hazardous Material #1	May 3 - 14, 04	EVOC, National Guard Resp.	August 31, 2004
GHSO Program Planning	May 17 - 18, 04	School of Police Staff/Commnd	Sept. 1-10, 04
Dispatcher Ann. In-Service #1	June 16 - 18, 04	Sexual Harrassment Class	Sept. 28, 04
School of Police Staff/Commnd	July 5-30, 04	Meth Awareness	October 4, 2004
Patrol Resp. to Active Shooter	July 7-9, 04	AR15 Bushmaster, Glock 33	Oct. 13-14, 04
Safety Education Meeting	July 12, 2004	Weapons Service Ability	Oct. 14, 04
Dispatcher Ann. In-Service #2	July 14-16, 04	Weapons of Mass Destruction	Nov. 4, 04
Crime Scene Investigation #1	July 19-23, 04	Patrol Resp. to Active Shooter	Nov. 8-10, 04
AR15 Bushmaster, Glock 33	July 21-22	Radar Lidar Specialists Update	Nov. 22-24, 04
AR15 Weapons Service Ability	July 22, 2004	APCO Comm. Training Officer	Dec. 7-9, 04

Excellence Through Training





INCENTIVES AND RECOGNITION



CALEA

The Tennessee Department of Safety is one of only fifteen (15) highway patrols or state police agencies in the nation accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Accreditation bestows recognition on outstanding law enforcement agencies that demonstrate excellence in management and service by meeting an established set of professionally developed criteria. Accreditation requires agencies to meet or exceed 446 applicable standards, which address all areas of administration, operation and technical support activities. The process includes a thorough self-assessment and a vigorous on-site assessment by a team of CALEA assessors who carefully review department policies, interview personnel and seek public input from the community. Upon recommendation by assessors, CALEA officials grant a three-year award of accredited status to the agency, contingent on the agency's commitment to maintain compliance with established standards.

The Tennessee Department of Safety was first accredited on November 20, 1999 and re-accredited on November 16, 2002. The Department will undergo a stringent on-site assessment in August of 2005 in an effort to be eligible for a second re-accreditation in November of 2005. Accreditation reinforces the department's position as, and commitment to remaining, an outstanding law enforcement organization comprised of highly skilled professionals.



Child Restraint Commendations

The following troopers were honored and commended for their enforcement efforts involving Child Safety Restraints in 2004. Each trooper listed below had the highest number of Child Restraint Citations among all the Tennessee Highway Patrol Districts for the month shown.

Month	Trooper
January	Patrick Turner, District 7
February	Patrick Turner, District 7
March	Bobby Clevenger, District 2
April	Timothy Spicer, District 2
May	Patrick Turner, District 7
June	Roy Mills, District 4
July	Vincent Turocy, District 3
August	Vincent Turocy, District 3
September	Michael Wilson, District 1
October	Jeremy McAnally, District 7
November	James Smith, District 4
December	Tracy Donoho, District 6



Moving Citation Commendations

The following troopers were honored and commended for their enforcement efforts involving Moving Violations in 2004. Each trooper listed below had the highest number of Moving Citations among all the Tennessee Highway Patrol Districts for the month shown.

Month	Trooper
January	Billy Jackson, District 4
February	Joseph Agee, District 3
March	Billy Jackson, District 4
April	Joseph Agee, District 3
May	Joseph Agee, District 3
June	Billy Jackson, District 4
July	Billy Jackson, District 4
August	Steven Bourque, District 2
September	Billy Jackson, District 4
October	Christopher Dye, District 3
November	Marty Nix, District 1
December	Billy Jackson, District 4



Speeding Truck Citation Commendations

The following troopers were honored and commended for their enforcement efforts involving speed enforcement and commercial motor vehicles in 2004. Each trooper listed below had the highest number of Speeding Truck Citations among all the Tennessee Highway Patrol Districts for the month shown.

Month	Trooper
January	Jackie Bailey, District 1
February	Jackie Bailey, District 1
March	Stanley Roberts, District 6
April	Marty Nix, District 2
May	Billy Jackson, District 4
June	Michael Riley, District 8
July	Billy Jackson, District 4
August	Mark Blasco, District 4
September	Billy Jackson, District 4
October	Billy Jackson, District 4
November	Billy Jackson, District 4
December	Billy Jackson, District 4



DUI Arrest Commendations

The following troopers were honored and commended for their enforcement efforts involving DUI enforcement in 2004. Each trooper listed below had the highest number of DUI Arrests among all the Tennessee Highway Patrol Districts for the month shown.

Month	Trooper
January	Toby Carter, District 3
February	Kevin Kennett, District 3
March	Derrick Watson, District 1
April	Toby Carter, District 3
May	William Garrett, District 1
June	Toby Carter, District 3
July	William Garrett, District 1 Derrick Watson, District 1
August	Derrick Watson, District 1 Michael Turley, District 1 Wade Williams, District 1
September	Derrick Watson, District 1
October	Toby Carter, District 3
November	Toby Carter, District 3
December	Cory Russell, District 1





PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION



The Tennessee Highway Patrol is committed to making the roads and highways safe for the citizens of Tennessee. The THP sponsors public and media events to promote safety and to educate the public on the laws of Tennessee Highways. The THP visits schools throughout the state to inform students about traffic safety including seat belt laws, the dangers of speeding, and driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The THP has partnered with national campaigns such as **“Click it or Ticket it”** and **“You Drink and Drive, You Lose”** to promote safety and reduce fatalities on Tennessee Highways.

Click it or Ticket

The THP has aggressively pursued those who continue to drive and do not buckle up. In 2004, law enforcement officers across Tennessee and the THP increased enforcement of the state’s safety belt law as part of the nationwide Click it or Ticket it Mobilization. The goal of the campaign was to identify those motorists who were not following the law, but to also educate motorist about the importance of seat belt usage. The THP and local law enforcement also wanted to increase the state 69% safety belt use rate and reduce fatalities. With the help of the community, support of government agencies, and organizations the state was able to increase the seat belt usage rate from 68% in 2003 to 72% in 2004.



You Drink and Drive, You Lose.

The “You Drink and Drive, You Lose.” campaign is a joint initiative on the part of state and local law enforcement agencies to curb drunk driving in Tennessee. Tennessee Highway Patrol and the local law enforcement set up sobriety checkpoints throughout the year and on major holiday weekends. The combinations of education and enforcement have been a great tool for saving lives and keeping intoxicated drivers off the roads.



Stop the H.A.R.M.

Stop the Hazardous, Aggressive and Reckless Motorists (HARM) was a statewide enforcement campaign conducted by THP. The campaign targeted motorists who display behavior commonly associated with aggressive driving including: DUI, reckless driving, speeding, following too closely, unsafe lane changes, and failure to obey traffic signals. Efforts focused primarily on the interstates and major highways, as well as the other areas in the state known to have a high rate of aggressive driving. Harm was conducted from July 1 through September 6, 2004.

Hands Across the Border

For six days leading up to the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, local police, and sheriff's deputies participated in the 13th Annual Hands Across the Border highway safety awareness campaign. From Sunday, August 29 through Friday, September 3rd, 2004, Tennessee law enforcement joined their partners from bordering states Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia in a major southeastern Zero Tolerance impaired driving enforcement effort.

Motorists who stopped at road checks and Visitors Centers in Tennessee and bordering states received seatbelt, child safety seat and impaired driving brochures. This year, Hands Across the Border was part of the "One Hundred Days of Summer HEAT" campaign to raise awareness about the deadly consequences of speed, drunk and drugged driving, and failure to use safety belts and child restraints.

Hands Across the Border is a great opportunity for law enforcement officers of adjoining states to partner with each other and make a commitment to save lives on all our roadways. During the event, law enforcement sends the message to the motoring public that traffic laws will be strictly enforced from state to state in an effort to save lives during the deadly Labor Day Holiday period.

Hands Across the Border traditionally is a series of media events at Welcome Centers around the state borders. Law Enforcement Officers from each state come together for a special program at each state's welcome center before motorcading to the adjoining state's welcome center for a continuation of the program. The highlight of the program is the handshake between two Law Enforcement officers from either side of the state lines, pledging their cooperation to work together in reducing fatalities and serious injuries during the holiday.



Street Smart

Street Smart is a safety education campaign that focused on the importance of practicing safe, responsible driving habits. The campaign targeted teens due to their lack of experience and their tendency to take chances while driving. With this program and the Graduated Driver License system, the THP expects to see a reduction in motor vehicle crashes that involve teens.

National School Bus Safety Week

The Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Pupil Transportation division partnered with school officials to send troopers back to school. Troopers were placed on school buses during School Bus Safety Week to monitor motorists to ensure they obeyed all laws and exercised caution when encountering a school bus.

S.E.A.T.

Safety **E**nforcement and **T**rucks (SEAT) was a seat belt enforcement campaign geared specifically toward commercial truck drivers. The SEAT campaign was developed by THP to help achieve an overall goal of increasing seat belt usage among commercial drivers by 10 percent in the coming year. While the seat belt usage rate has risen nationally to 79 percent, the usage rate among commercial vehicle drivers remains far below at 48 percent. The SEAT campaign was a three month campaign that began in October 2004.

S.U.P.E.R.

Stepped Upped Patrol Enforcement Results (SUPER) focused on commercial vehicles with an emphasis on moving violations, particularly speeding trucks. A goal of the THP is to improve the overall safety on Tennessee's roadways by reducing the number of commercial motor vehicle crashes in heavily trafficked areas. The SUPER program concentrates on Tennessee's four metropolitan cities (Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville).

Impaired Driving Enforcement

The Tennessee Highway Patrol Impaired Driving Enforcement campaign targeted 28 counties across the state that had the highest average of alcohol related injury and fatal traffic crashes. By identifying the problem areas, the THP was able to put in place an effective enforcement effort to combat the deadly results of impaired driving.

As part of the campaign, the THP concentrated on DUI, other alcohol related offenses as well as other violations that affect the safety of motorists. Enforcement measures used in the campaign include sobriety checkpoints, enforcement roadblocks and saturation patrols. Since the campaign's inception, Troopers have issued thousands of citations for DUI, speeding, safety belt and various other violations.


National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

In an effort to reduce speeding and aggressive driving in work zone areas, the THP has increased enforcement efforts in work zones statewide during National Work Zone Safety Week. The Tennessee Department of Safety (TDOS) and The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) are constantly working on making work zones safer. As a result of their tireless effort, a new policy called Merge Left was created.

The Merge Left program reduces the opportunity for motorists to merge at the last minute. Under the new program, motorists are advised of an upcoming work zone and are instructed to merge to the left lane as quickly as possible and get in a single line with all other vehicles. They will continue in a single file line until they exit the work zone. Motorist who do not follow the policy are given a hefty fine for the violation.


National Work Zone Awareness Week 2004

How Would You Like It If
Someone Drove Through Your Office?



The People Who Build Our Highways
Work Where You Drive.

Please Drive Safely Through **Work Zones!**



National Work Zone Awareness Week 2004

Safety Education

Charged with increasing public awareness of highway driver safety, the Safety Education division develops, promotes, and coordinates a wide range of activities that have in common the advancement of public safety. An additional mandated service of this division is to regulate commercial driving schools. This division also provides administrative oversight for the MREP, D.A.R.E, and G.R.E.A.T. programs.

During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, this division sponsored, conducted, or participated in 3,804 programs promoting driver safety and serving 132,700 individuals in Tennessee and the surrounding areas. Safety Education is a critical component for improving highway safety. Working through the department's Public Information Officer, the Safety Education program uses the media, pamphlets, film, video tapes and other instructional materials to educate the motoring public in the safe operation of vehicles.

Utilizing local and statewide crash data, this division developed appropriate safety messages and safety training events. Proper use of Child Restraint Device (CRD) demonstrations, rollover simulations, "The Dead or Alive" computer program simulations, and fatal vision goggle demonstrations were held at schools, malls, fairs, and other special events throughout the state to promote driver safety issues. By partnering with the Governor's Highway Safety Office, the division has been able to launch intensive DUI campaigns.

Other partnerships, such as that with Vanderbilt University for CRD demonstrations, were formed to get driver education messages out as widely as possible.

The Safety Education Division annually inspects the private driving schools and vehicles statewide that are licensed by the department. There are a total of twenty-five (25) driving schools statewide, with one hundred thirty-seven (137) instructors, and a total of seventy-one (71) vehicles. Related commercial driving school regulatory duties include processing applications and fielding calls from individuals who are interested in starting a private industry driving school.

D.A.R.E.

The reputation of the Department's D.A.R.E. unit is well recognized and appreciated throughout the state, nation, and the world. The unit is frequently called upon to assist the national D.A.R.E program, D.A.R.E. America, in its national and international certification efforts as well.

The D.A.R.E. Unit, by request of D.A.R.E. International and the United States State Department, went to Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles and conducted an 80-hour basic D.A.R.E. Officer Training for 35 police officers from the island country of Curaçao from February 28 – March 12, 2004. This began the D.A.R.E. program for this Caribbean country.

The D.A.R.E. hosted the International D.A.R.E. Officers Conference and In-Service July 6 – 10, 2004 at the Opryland Hotel. Approximately 2500 D.A.R.E. officers and their families around the world attended the conference. The last conference hosted by the Unit was at the Opryland Hotel in 2000.

The D.A.R.E. unit conducted two (2) 80-hour basic D.A.R.E. Officer Trainings (October 2003 and June 2004), resulting in a total of 51 new local city, county, and state D.A.R.E. Officers being certified to instruct the elementary and middle school D.A.R.E. curricula. These officers were also certified as school-based law enforcement officers (SRO's). Included in the newly trained officers were 5 military police that teach in the DoDD's (Department of Defense Dependent Schools) schools on US military bases throughout the world.



The unit conducted a specialized, 32-hour D.A.R.E. Middle School training at Paris Landing State Park. During this training event ten instructors, including three from the City of London, UK Police, were certified to teach the D.A.R.E. Middle School curriculum in the public schools.

In addition, the unit coordinated and supervised training for the Tennessee D.A.R.E. Officers Conference and In-service in Gatlinburg from July 20-24, 2003. This training included the Phase II update certification for the new D.A.R.E. curricula as well as other D.A.R.E. specific in-service training opportunities. Approximately 200 certified D.A.R.E. officers attended.

MREP.

The Tennessee Motorcycle Rider Education Program (MREP) is responsible for establishing standards and administering the motorcycle rider education program for Tennessee residents who currently ride or those interested in learning to ride motorcycles safely. Motorcycle rider safety courses are available to all persons 14 years of age or older. Continuing a four-year trend, the MREP experienced a significant growth in program participation. In 2004, Over 6,000 Tennesseans enrolled in one of the two rider education programs across the state. This represents a 12% increase in program participation over the last year.



Using the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's (MSF) curricula, the Motorcycle Rider Education Program provides rider training programs for novice and experienced riders. The Basic Rider (BRC) and Experienced Rider courses (ERC) are taught in safe, off street environments where students learn and practice riding fundamentals as well as motorcycle safety techniques. A riding evaluation and a written test are administered at the end of each rider course. Benefits of completing one of the courses include insurance premium discounts and streamlined processing for the motorcycle license endorsement.

MREP also aids local and state law enforcement agencies by providing them with training and information on enforcement issues such as proper personal protective equipment, proper license endorsements and unique alcohol and drug related behavior of motorcyclists. Promoting motorcycle safety awareness activities is another responsibility of the Department's MREP.

Also in 2004, MREP assisted military programs at Fort Campbell and Tenn. Air National Guard units with establishing courses at their facilities in order to meet Dept. of Defense requirements for on-base riding.



ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

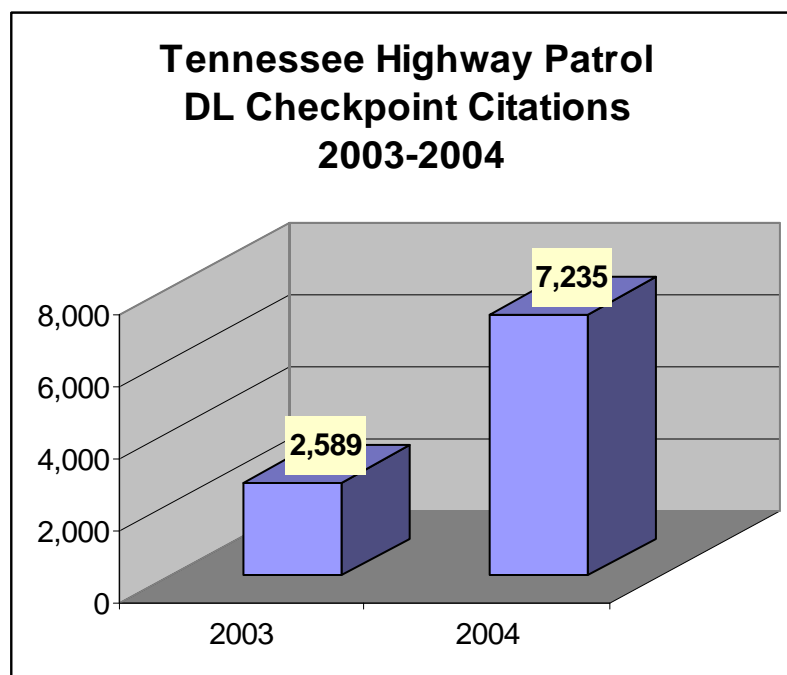


Special Enforcement Efforts and Achievements

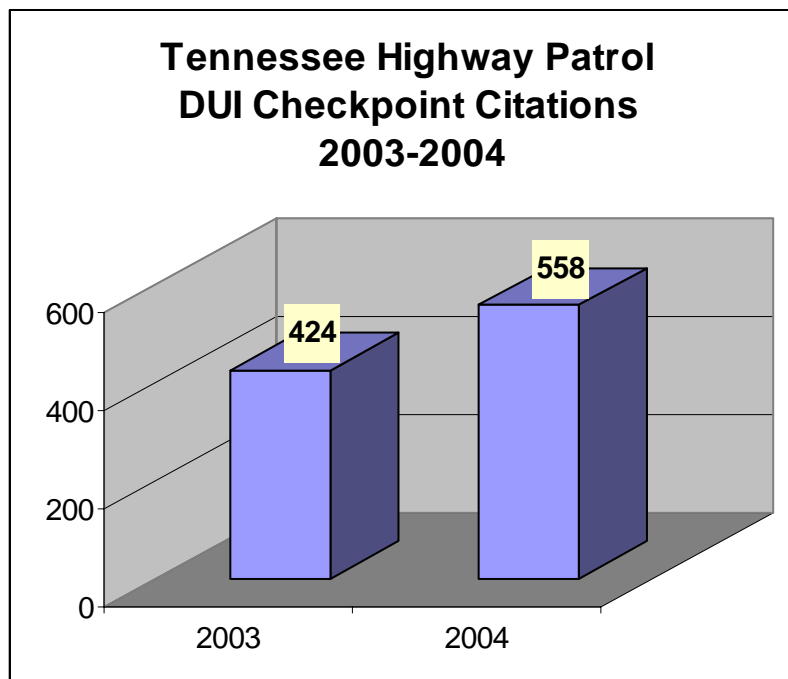
The Tennessee Highway Patrol conducted a total of 918 special enforcement efforts in 2004. These enforcement efforts consisted of 340 saturation patrols, 51 DUI checkpoints, and 527 Driver's License checkpoints. During these saturation patrols and checkpoint operations, numerous citations and arrests were made.

The saturation patrols were conducted in each of the THP's 34 enforcement zones and consisted of holiday and special focus blitzes. The THP conducted enforcement blitzes in all of the enforcement zones during each of 7 major holidays including New Year's Eve, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. In addition, enforcement blitzes occurred in all zones for National Buckle-Up Week, National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, and 100 Days of Summer Heat. In addition to the above programs, the THP participated in many other various national, state, and local campaigns throughout 2004.

During the 527 Driver's License checkpoints that were conducted in 2004, 7,235 citations were issued. This represents a 132% increase in the # of DL checkpoints and a 279% increase in the number of citations issued at DL checkpoints when compared to 2003. In 2003, 227 checkpoints were conducted and 2,589 citations were issued. The chart below illustrates the trend in Driver's License citations at checkpoints conducted by the THP over the last two years.

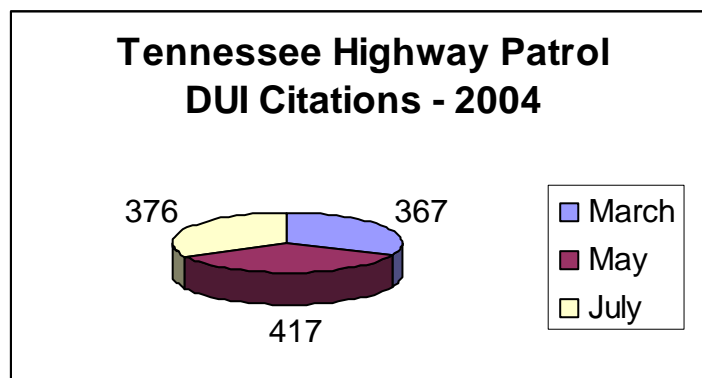


During the 51 DUI checkpoints that were conducted in 2004, 558 citations were issued, 23 of which were for DUI. In addition, 53 arrests were made. When compared to 2003, the THP increased the number of DUI checkpoints conducted by 65%. There was a 32% increase in the number of citations issued. In 2003, 31 DUI checkpoints were conducted and 424 citations were issued, 33 of which were for DUI. In addition, 49 arrests were made. The chart below illustrated the trend in citations issued at DUI checkpoints conducted by the THP over the last two years.

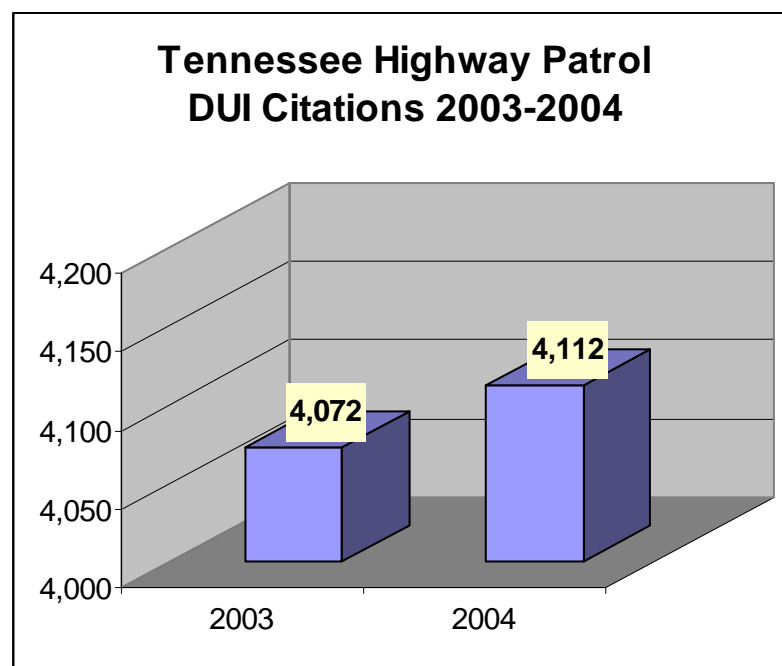


Impaired Driving

The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 4,112 citations for DUI in 2004. This represented a slight 1.0% increase in the number of DUI citations when compared to 2003. The best three months for 2004 were March (367 citations), May (417 citations), and July (376 citations).

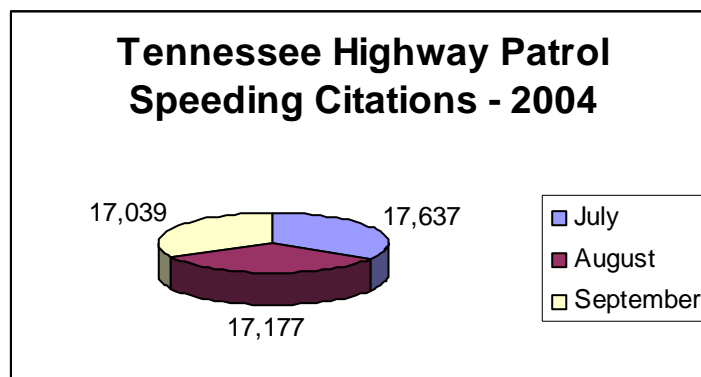


The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 4,072 citations for DUI in 2003. The chart below illustrates the trend in DUI arrests over the past two years.

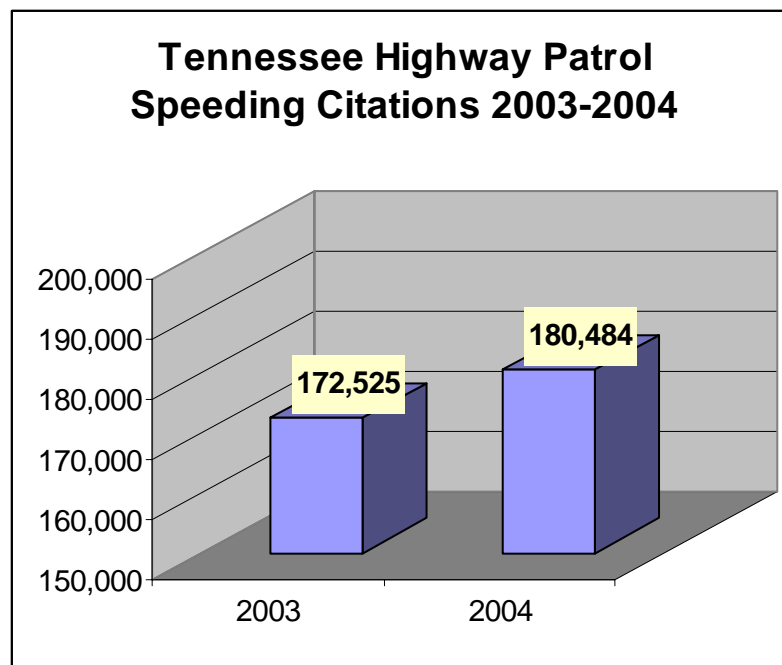


Speeding

The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 180,484 speed-related citations in 2004. This represented a 4.6% increase in the number of speed-related citations when compared to 2003. The best three months for 2004 were July (17,637 citations), August (17,177 citations), and September (17,039 citations).

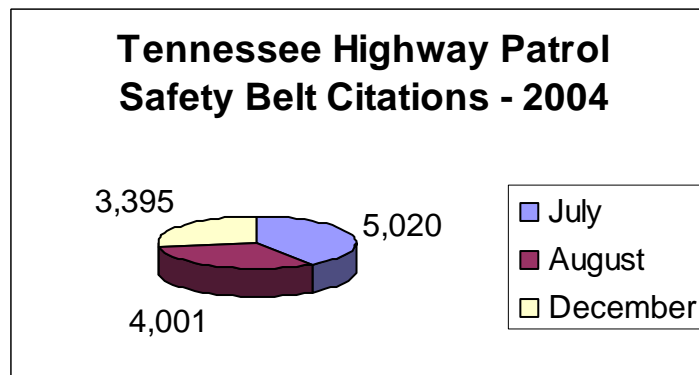


The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 172,525 speed-related citations in 2003. The chart below illustrates the trend in DUI arrests over the past two years.

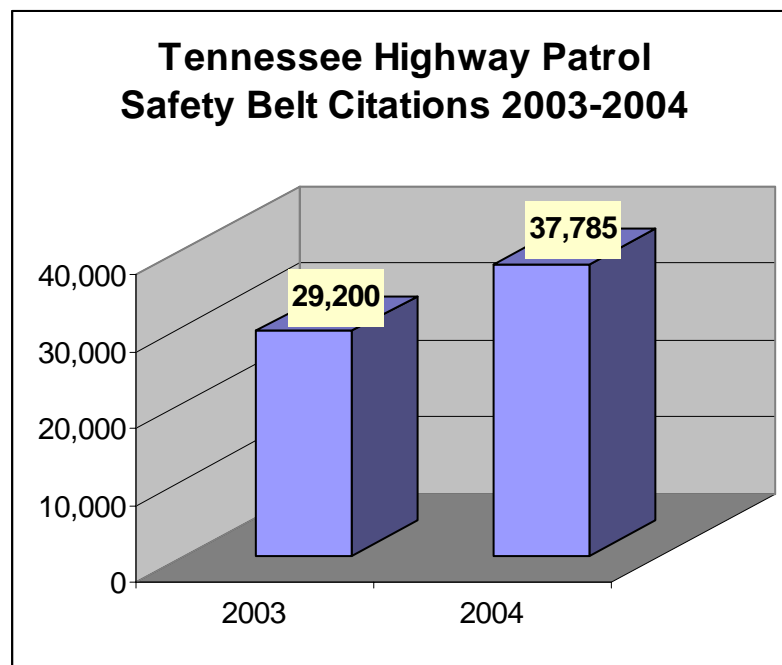


Safety Belt Use

The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 37,785 safety belt citations in 2004. This represented a 29% increase in the number of safety belt citations issued when compared to 2003. The best three months for 2004 were July (5,020 citations), August (4,001 citations), and December (3,395 citations).

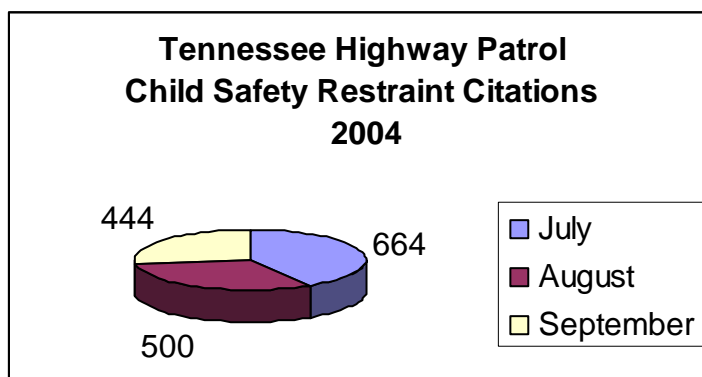


The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 29,200 safety belt citations in 2003. The chart below illustrates the trend in safety belt citations over the past two years.

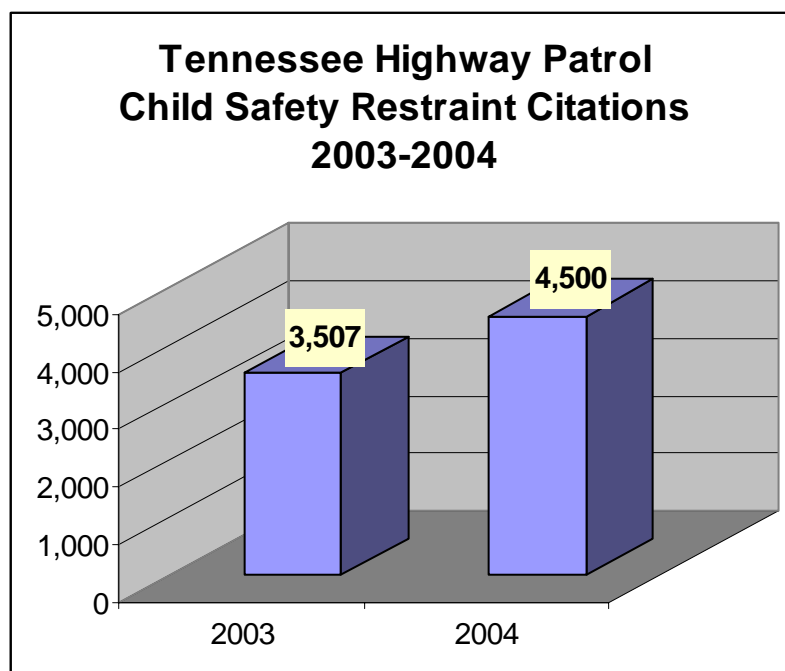


Child Safety Restraints

The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 4,500 child safety restraint citations in 2004. This represented a 28% increase in the number of child safety restraint citations issued when compared to 2003. The best three months for 2004 were July (664 citations), August (500 citations), and September (444 citations).



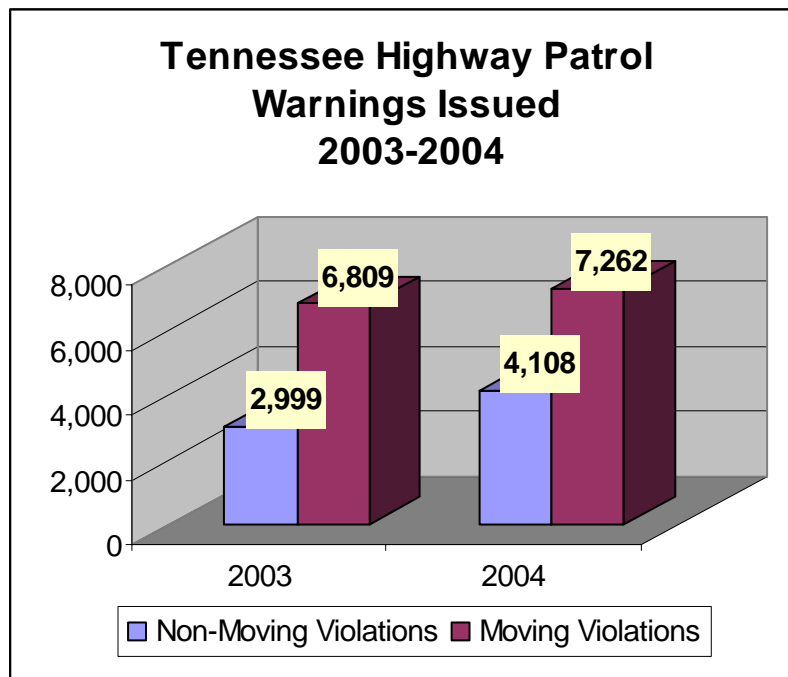
The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 3,507 child safety restraint citations in 2003. The chart below illustrates the trend in child safety restraint citations over the past two years.



Warnings

The Tennessee Highway Patrol does not track the number of warnings issued for specific violations. However, we do track the total number of warnings issued based on whether it was issued for a moving violation or a non-moving violation.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued 7,262 warnings for moving violations and 4,108 warnings for non-moving violations in 2004. This represented a 7% increase in the number of warnings issued for moving violations, and a 37% increase in the number of warnings issued for non-moving violations when compared to 2003. In 2003, the THP issued 6,809 warnings for moving violations and 2,999 warnings for non-moving violations. The charts below illustrate the trend in warnings issued by the THP over the past two years for both moving and non-moving violations.





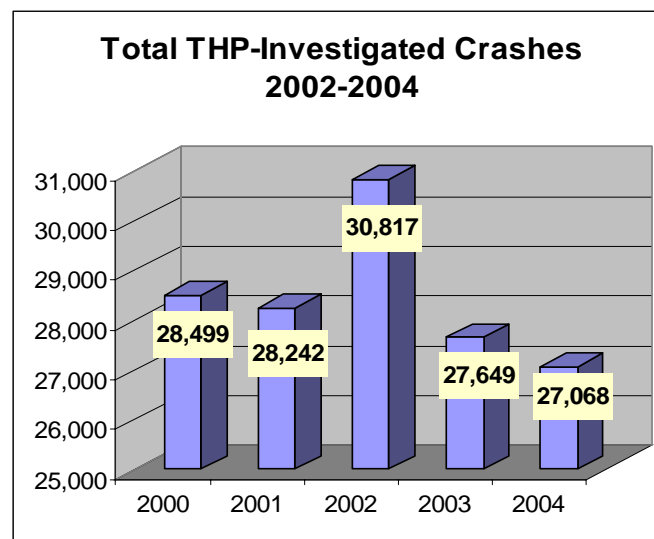
EFFECTIVENESS



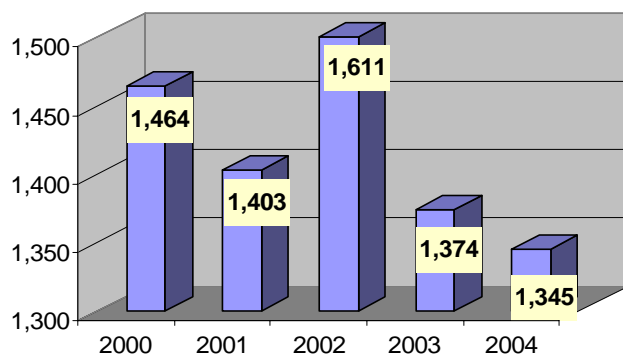
The Tennessee Highway Patrol has done an excellent job in the areas of occupant restraint, impaired driving, and reducing speeding on Tennessee Highways. The seat belt usage rate in Tennessee has increased each year. From 2003 to 2004, the State of Tennessee had a 4% increase in the seat belt usage rate. With the increase in seat belt usage, the state had fewer fatalities attributed to the lack of seat belt restraint use. The seat belt usage rate will continue to increase with the enforcement of the THP and the joint venture of national campaigns such as Buckle Up and Click it or Ticket.

Impaired driving on Tennessee highways has gradually declined the last several years. Arrest for impaired driving is up in Tennessee and impaired driving fatalities are down. With additional sobriety checkpoints, increased saturation patrols, and media campaigns, the THP expects the overall number of impaired driving offenses to continue to decrease. The THP has proven that enforcement and education, along with a committed work force can save lives on Tennessee highways.

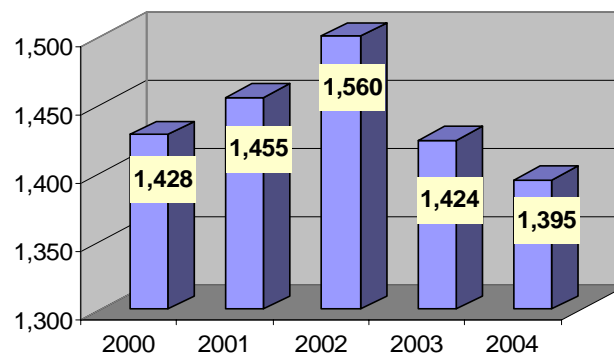
In order to reduce speeding on Tennessee highways, the THP started a program called Banning Aggressive Driving (B.A.D). The program was designed to reduce the number of motor vehicle crashes related to speed and aggressive driving. The first step of the program was to identify the areas having the highest number of speed related crashes and fatalities. Once the areas were identified, intensive enforcement was implemented to combat the problem areas. The department used marked and unmarked cars to maximize the efforts. From this program, thousands of citations have been issued and hundreds of lives have been saved.



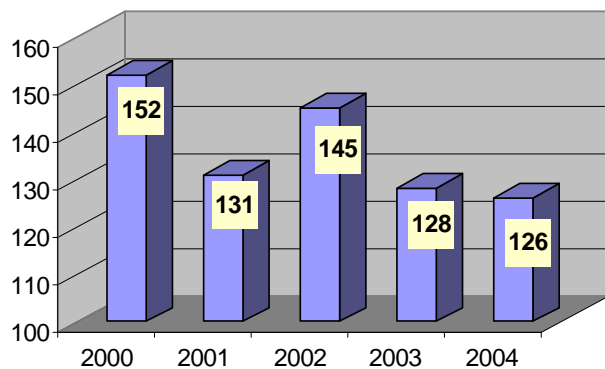
**Total THP-Investigated
Speed-related Injury Crashes
2002-2004**



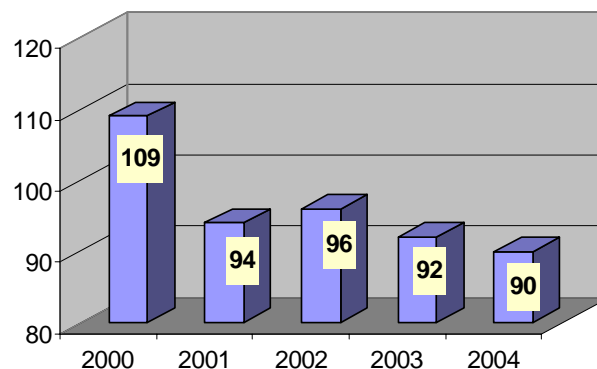
**Total THP-Investigated
DUI-indicated Injury Crashes
2002-2004**



**Total THP-Investigated
Speed-related Fatal Crashes
2002-2004**



**Total THP-Investigated
DUI-indicated Fatal Crashes
2002-2004**



** Figures for 2000 and 2001 are final. All figures for 2002-2004 are estimates based on preliminary data.

THP/CVE Merger

On July 1, 2004, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division of the Tennessee Department of Safety officially merged into the Tennessee Highway Patrol creating a unified, state-of-the-art agency that is better prepared to handle any situation that arises on Tennessee's roadways. As a result of the merger, the THP will boost its overall strength to more than 900 uniformed personnel, more than 700 of which will be patrolling Tennessee highways. Each commissioned officer will undergo additional training to ensure they are equipped with the skills necessary to enforce the laws and monitor the activities of both commercial and non-commercial traffic. The merger will enhance highway safety because both parties will be cross-trained to perform law enforcement for both commercial and non-commercial vehicles. Enforcement personnel will no longer be focused on only one area of safety enforcement, they will now all be able to look at all aspects of highway safety, and will be equipped with the training necessary to enforce all state and federal laws related to highway safety. All Troopers will now be capable of performing commercial vehicle inspections which will dramatically increase the number of inspections performed. Most likely, the number of commercial vehicle inspections performed annually will double as a result of the merger.

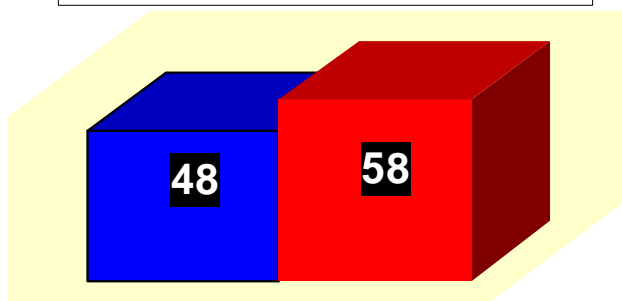
As a result of the merger, the department will eliminate duplicative efforts and realize valuable savings equaling over \$1 million in the areas of equipment, training, and personnel, as well as improve the overall level of service the agency provides. In addition, THP response time to crashes will improve because of the increase in the number of Troopers on the road. Overall, the merger will improve highway safety in Tennessee ensure that the Tennessee Highway Patrol provides citizens and visitors of this state with the highest level of security on our roadways.

The following page contains graphs illustrating the increase in the level of service provided by the Tennessee Highway Patrol after the THP/CVE merger. As all officers become cross-trained, and more receive Level I commercial vehicle inspection certification, the numbers should continue to increase leading to safer roads and highways in Tennessee.

DUI - Commercial Motor Vehicle

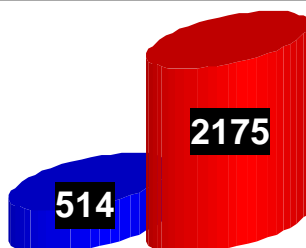
■ Jan-Jun 2004

■ Jul-Dec 2004

**K-9 Inspections - CMVs**

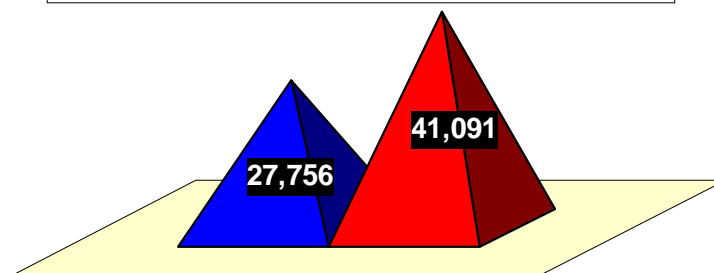
■ Jan-Jun 2004

■ Jul-Dec 2004

**CMV Safety Inspections**

■ Jan-Jun 2004

■ Jul-Dec 2004



100 Days of Summer Heat

The statewide enforcement campaign was conducted by the THP to reduce the number of fatal crashes on Tennessee's highways. The campaign targeted drivers with aggressive driving habits, including speeding, impaired driving and lack of restraint use. Since the inception of the program, the THP has issued thousands of citations and written warnings to drivers who have disregarded the rules of the road. The campaign was conducted during the months of June, July, and August. The activity synopsis is below.

	June 18-20	July 2-4	August 6-8	Total
Total Hours Worked	9,273	11,219	10,295	30,787
Regular Duty Hours	6,487	8,268	7,919	22,674
Grant Overtime Hours	2,786	2,951	2,376	8,113
Total Miles Driven	128,117	163,608	144,418	436,143
Motorists Assisted	668	780	849	2,297
Traffic Crashes Investigated	212	240	230	682

Total Citations	8,397	10,701	9,475	28,573
Moving	4,898	5,156	4,417	14,471
Non-Moving	3,499	5,545	5,058	14,102
Written Warning	332	356	480	1,168
Total Enforcement Contacts	8,729	11,057	9,955	29,741

Moving Citations				
Speeding	4,567	4,689	3,932	13,188
DUI	54	75	104	233
Other (Reckless Driving; Disregard Signal or Sign; Following Too Closely; Improper Passing; etc.)	277	392	381	1,050

Non-Moving Citations				
Child Restraint	109	221	150	480
Safety Belt	647	1,457	1,138	3,242
Driver License	521	748	719	1,988
Revoked Driver License	98	169	178	445
Other	2,124	2,094	2,873	7,091

Total Commercial Vehicle Inspections	291	308	507	1,106
Level 1	33	42	75	150
Level 2	156	203	296	655
Level 3	102	63	136	301
Drivers Placed Out-of-Service	23	35	70	128
Vehicles Placed Out-of-Service	23	25	63	111

SECTION 6

During the three enforcement periods of the 100 Days of Summer HEAT campaign, Troopers:

- Issued a citation every 27 seconds
- Cited a driver every 53 seconds for a hazardous moving violation
- Cited a driver every 55 seconds for a non-moving violation
- Arrested a DUI every 55 minutes
- Put a revoked driver in jail every 72 minutes
- Issued a citation to a speeding driver every 59 seconds
- Issued a citation to a driver committing other hazardous moving violations every 12 minutes (Reckless Driving, Improper Passing, Following Too Closely, etc.)
- Cited a driver for not properly restraining a child passenger every 27 minutes
- Issued a safety belt citation every 4 minutes
- Conducted a commercial vehicle inspection every 11.7 minutes, or slightly more than 5 per hour
- Assisted almost 12 motorists every hour

APPENDICES



THP CRACKS DOWN ON IMPAIRED DRIVING WITH ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN

TROOPERS TARGET HIGH-RISK COUNTIES

Nashville, Tenn – The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) is cracking down on impaired driving. A special enforcement campaign is underway in counties across the state identified as high-risk areas.

THP's Impaired Driving Enforcement campaign targets 28 counties across the state found to have the highest average of alcohol related injury and fatal traffic crashes. The counties targeted include Anderson, Bedford, Blount, Bradley, Coffee, Cumberland, Davidson, Dyer, Hamblen, Hamilton, Haywood, Henry, Knox, Lawrence, Madison, Maury, McMinn, Montgomery, Putnam, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Tipton, Warren, Washington and Weakley.

"By determining where the problems are the greatest, we're able to put in place effective enforcement efforts to combat the deadly results of impaired driving," said Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips.

As part of the campaign, Troopers concentrate on DUI and other alcohol related offenses as well as other violations that affect the safety of motorists. Various enforcement measures used in the campaign include sobriety checkpoints, enforcement roadblocks and saturation patrols.

"More than 3,000 hours of overtime will be dedicated to combating impaired driving in these high-risk counties," said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. Statistics tell us most of these crashes take place between 9 p.m., Friday and 3 a.m., Sunday, so Troopers will be especially vigilant during this time period."

Since the campaign's start in October 2003, Troopers have issued 2,769 citations for DUI, speeding, safety belt and various other violations. The Impaired Driving Enforcement campaign will continue through September 2004.



THE TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL HELPS TEENS GET “STREET SMART”

EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON SAFE DRIVING SKILLS

Nashville, Tenn – Tennessee Department of Safety (TDOS) Commissioner Fred Phillips today announced the implementation of “Street Smart,” a new safety education campaign targeting teens. The “Street Smart” program will focus on the importance of practicing safe, responsible driving habits each time a teen gets behind the wheel of a car.

“Teens are involved in more motor vehicle crashes than any other age group. The recent crashes in Millington and Portland that claimed the lives of 11 teenagers are a tragic reminder of that fact,” said Commissioner Phillips. “Driving is a huge responsibility. Through the Street Smart initiative we hope to encourage teens to adopt driving habits that will make the roads safer for everyone.”

The Tennessee Highway Patrol’s (THP) Safety Education Officers will lead the charge by speaking with teens across the state. They will stress the importance of following the rules of the road such as obeying the speed limit, wearing a seat belt and remaining in control at all times.

“Lack of experience and a tendency to take chances while driving are two reasons teens are at a higher risk for being in a crash,” said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. “But getting a driver license doesn’t have to mean an increased threat. Practical boundaries, such as set forth in the state’s GDL system, combined with a concerted effort by teens to drive safely help to reduce the risks.”

The state implemented a Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program in July 2001. The GDL system gives young, novice drivers more time to develop safe driving skills by allowing them more responsibility in stages. For more information about the state’s specific GDL requirements, please visit www.tennessee.gov/safety.

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**TDOS MAKING A S.U.P.E.R. EFFORT TO SLOW DOWN SPEEDING TRUCKS**

Nashville, Tenn – Speeding truck drivers beware. Tennessee’s Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) officers are on high alert and looking for truckers who drive too fast and commit other moving violations.

The Tennessee Department of Safety’s (TDOS) CVE division is conducting the **“Stepped Up Patrol Enforcement Results”** (SUPER) program targeting operators of commercial vehicles.

“Speeding is a leading factor in traffic crashes. Through this statewide enforcement campaign, we’re targeting drivers whose aggressive behavior makes it unsafe for other motorists,” said Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips. “Our message is clear - slow down and drive safely.”

The SUPER program focuses on commercial vehicles with an emphasis on moving violations, particularly speeding trucks. The goal of the program is to improve the overall safety on Tennessee’s roadways by reducing the number of commercial motor vehicle crashes in heavily trafficked areas. While CVE officials are stationing one patrol unit every twenty-five miles on the Interstate system in Tennessee, the SUPER program will concentrate on the four metropolitan cities: Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville.

“While most truck drivers operate in a safe, responsible manner, we’re going to stop the ones who are not,” said Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Lt. Colonel Randy Caplinger. “We’re putting a patrol unit in every county in Tennessee that has an interstate running through it. To further ensure big trucks are operating safely, CVE officers will conduct a safety inspection of drivers and their records on every traffic stop during this initiative.”

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES



SLOWING DOWN IN WORK ZONES SAVES MOTORISTS LIVES

NATIONAL WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK BEGINS

Nashville, Tenn – The busy spring road construction season is underway and National Work Zone Safety Week begins today to remind drivers to be especially careful when driving in construction zones.

The Tennessee Department of Safety and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) are working together to help increase awareness among drivers about work zone safety issues during the week of April 5-10.

In observance of the Work Zone Safety Week, the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) will step up enforcement in work zones statewide. When motorists disregard the speed limit and ignore the warning signs, Troopers will alert them of the violation with an expensive reminder.

"Last year in Tennessee 29 people were killed in work zone crashes," said Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips. "The most tragic thing is that work zone fatalities are preventable deaths. Motorists need to remember that a work zone exists to improve the roadways. Exercising a few extra seconds of caution while traveling through a construction area increases everyone's safety."

The most recent statistics available from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration show that 1,181 people were killed nationwide in work zones in 2002. National data shows that work zone crashes occur most often on weekdays, during daylight hours, in the summer and fall months, and in zones with at least a 45 MPH speed limit.

TDOS statistics show there were a total of 5,919 crashes in work zones in 2003, and in the past three years work zone crashes have increased 67 percent statewide.

According to TDOT there are 16 active interstate work zones in Tennessee currently and 416 other work zone projects on other state routes, highways and other areas.

"Remember, the people who build and repair your highways are your family members, neighbors and friends," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. "Drivers should also realize that just because they don't work on the roads they are not protected from work zone dangers. Four out of five people killed in work zone crashes are drivers and passengers."

Following are some suggestions for staying safe while driving through construction work zones:

- Do not speed
- Stay alert
- Observe signs and special instructions
- Do not change lanes in work zone
- Keep pace with traffic, but do not tailgate
- Minimize distractions such as phones, loud music, reaching for things
- Be patient

"Work zones are no place for impatient or aggressive driving," added THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. "There is a high cost of ignoring warning signs in construction zones, monetarily and in the toll on lives."

This is the 5th annual National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. It is sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO).



THP AND CVE TO CONSOLIDATE OPERATIONS

MERGE TO CREATE ONE UNIFIED, STATE-OF-THE-ART AGENCY

MAY 6, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips today announced plans to merge the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) division into the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP). As a result of the merger, THP will boost its overall strength to more than 900 uniformed personnel.

The merger will create a unified, state-of-the-art agency that is better prepared to handle any situation that arises on Tennessee's roadways. Each commissioned officer will undergo additional training to ensure they are equipped with the skills necessary to enforce the laws and monitor the activities of commercial and non-commercial traffic on Tennessee's highways.

"By merging these two law enforcement divisions, we will augment our ability to serve and protect the citizens and visitors of our state," said Commissioner Phillips. "Homeland security has remained a priority of the department since the threat of terrorist attacks became a reality. The merger will augment our existing efforts to make certain our state is secure."

The conversion will become effective July 1, but the department will immediately begin the merge process. No positions or personnel will be eliminated. As a result of the merger, the department will eliminate duplicative efforts and realize valuable savings in the areas of equipment, training and personnel.

"The overall goal of the department is to improve highway safety. By combining our efforts, we will create a stronger, more collaborative agency," added Phillips.

THP/CVE MERGER FAQ'S

- **When will the merger of CVE into THP begin?**
Immediately. However, the merger will not be effective until July 1. We will begin the process of converting all uniformed and civilian personnel to corresponding THP positions without delay.
- **Why is the department merging the CVE and THP divisions?** To ensure we provide the citizens and visitors of Tennessee with the highest level of security on our roadways. The two divisions have the same mission---improved highway safety. By merging the two, we create one state-of-the-art, unified operation that works together to achieve a common goal of safe, secure roads.
- **What is the outcome of the merger?**
The merger will improve the overall level of service the agency provides and will ultimately reduce the cost of operation. It will boost THP's strength to more than 900, which directly translates to approximately two more Troopers assigned to each of the 95 counties statewide.

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES



- **How will the department ensure all commission officers are trained to perform both CVE and THP duties?**

It is the utmost priority of the department to properly train each commissioned officer. In-service training for uniformed personnel will include sufficient training for each person.

- Training for CVE officers will begin May 17, 2004 and will include advanced instruction in traffic crash investigation.
- THP in-service training will begin June 21, 2004 and will include instruction in motor carrier laws and regulations and commercial vehicle inspection.

All training is scheduled to be completed prior to the Thanksgiving holiday and will take place at the Department of Safety Training Center in Nashville.

- **What are the cost savings that will result from the consolidation?**

An estimated savings of more than \$1M will be saved in the next five years as a result of the THP/CVE merger. Savings will be realized in the areas of vehicles, uniforms, printing, training, and personnel.

Examples:

- Having one type of patrol car will save approximately \$72,000 per year. THP vehicles cost \$1,800 less than CVE vehicles.
- Combining cadet training efforts of THP and CVE will save approximately \$20,000 during the next five years.
- Uniforms are estimated to cost \$15,000 less per year. THP trousers cost a minimum of \$10 less than CVE's.

- **Will personnel change rank status because of the merger?**

No. All positions will be converted rank-for-rank into THP.

- **Will personnel have to relocate?**

No. All CVE personnel will be assigned to areas that are within the immediate vicinity of their current assignment.

- **How will the merger affect salaries?**

With the conversion to THP positions, all salaries will be brought in line with current THP levels.

- **What uniform will be worn?**

All commissioned personnel will wear the THP uniform and all patrol cars will bear the THP insignia.

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**THP CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY WITH ADDED ENFORCEMENT****TROOPERS OUT IN FORCE DURING HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

MAY 27, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) will mark the 2004 Memorial Day holiday with aggressive enforcement. Troopers statewide will be on the lookout for speeding motorists, unrestrained occupants and any impaired drivers.

“Public safety is the Tennessee Highway Patrol’s number one priority,” said Department of Safety Fred Phillips. “We’re serious about saving lives and are cracking down on motorists who create dangerous driving conditions for themselves and others this holiday weekend.”

Beginning Friday, May 28 at 6 p.m. and continuing until midnight Monday, May 31 all available Troopers will hit the roads in an effort to keep motorists safe this Memorial Day weekend. Last year there were a total of 13 fatalities on the roadways during the holiday period.

“Although the Tennessee Highway Patrol is increasing its presence and enforcement efforts this Memorial Day weekend, it’s imperative that drivers and passengers obey the rules of the road,” said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. “It’s a matter of safety – yours and your families – buckle up, don’t speed and never drink and drive.”

This year’s Memorial Holiday weekend coincides with “Buckle Up America! Week,” a nationwide effort aimed at seat belt and child safety enforcement. THP will join that effort this weekend with intensified enforcement of safety belt and child passenger safety laws.



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY JOINS ROADCHECK 2004

COMMITTS TO 72-HOURS OF CONTINUOUS COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

June 4, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- Working toward the goal of improved highway safety, the Tennessee Department of Safety (TDOS) will participate in Roadcheck 2004, a 72-hour inspection event aimed at increasing the safety of commercial vehicle traffic on the roadways.

TDOS Commissioner Fred Phillips and Tennessee Highway Patrol Colonel Lynn Pitts will kick-off the initiative by joining officials from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance and Arkansas State Police on the Interstate 40 bridge that connects Tennessee and Arkansas on Tuesday, June 8 at 11 a.m. CDT. In addition, Annette Sandberg the Chief Administrator with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will speak to the importance of the Roadcheck event.

During the 72-hour period from June 8 –10, officers with the department's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement division will conduct round-the-clock roadside inspections at each of the five weigh stations along Tennessee's highways. Officers will emphasize the inspection of cargo tanks, intermodal equipment as well as the use of safety belts.

"Commercial vehicle enforcement is a highly important, and daily, aspect of the department's efforts to increase the safety and security for motorists traveling throughout the state," said TDOS Commissioner Fred Phillips. "Our officers continuously conduct roadside inspections of trucks and buses to ensure commercial drivers are operating safely and their equipment is in proper working condition."

During last year's Roadcheck event in Tennessee officers inspected 655 commercial vehicles, which resulted in 103 vehicles and 58 drivers being placed out of service.

"We know that by combining enforcement with education we have a greater impact on highway safety, said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. "Roadcheck 2004 provides us with another opportunity to practice this and let the commercial vehicle industry know that safety is achieved through properly maintaining equipment, adequately training drivers and always practicing safe driving habits."

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**THE TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL IS TURNING THE HEAT UP ON AGGRESSIVE DRIVING ALL SUMMER LONG**

“100 DAYS OF SUMMER HEAT” ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF THIS WEEKEND

June 17, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) is intensifying its enforcement efforts aimed at aggressive drivers this summer with the launch of the “100 Days of Summer HEAT” enforcement campaign. All summer long Troopers statewide will put the brakes on speeding motorists, impaired drivers and those not buckled up properly.

“100 Days of Summer HEAT” will take place June 18-20, July 2-4 and August 5-7. The initiative is an effort to reduce the number of fatal crashes on Tennessee’s highways by targeting drivers with dangerous habits that put themselves and others at risk when traveling.

“There were more than 1,100 fatalities on Tennessee’s roadways last year,” said Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips. “Obeying the speed limit, buckling up and driving sober unquestionably saves lives. That’s why we’re mounting, and continuing, this highly visible enforcement campaign throughout the entire summer.”

Troopers in all 95 counties across the state will participate in the “Summer HEAT” enforcement campaign, which will include sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols. High visibility enforcement is effective in helping save lives and prevent injuries in automobile crashes.

“The goal of Summer HEAT is to simply save the lives,” said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. “With Troopers aggressively enforcing the rules of the road, we intend to stress the importance of practicing safe driving habits every time you climb behind the wheel of a car.”



TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL PLANS TO “STOP THE H.A.R.M”

ENFORCEMENT FOCUSES ON AGGRESSIVE DRIVING IN TIME FOR FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

July 1, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., ---Aggressive driving can wreak havoc on the roads and the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) intends to “Stop the H.A.R.M. – Hazardous, Aggressive and Reckless Motorists.” Just in time for the Fourth of July holiday, THP is implementing a new enforcement program that targets drivers committing aggressive driving violations.

Beginning today and continuing through the Labor Day holiday, THP will operate “Stop the H.A.R.M.” which focuses on the enforcement of the traffic laws commonly associated with aggressive driving including: DUI, reckless driving, speeding, following too closely, unsafe lane changes, and failure to obey traffic signals. THP will focus its enforcement efforts primarily on the Interstates and major highways, as well as other areas in the state known to have a high rate of aggressive driving.

“Aggressive driving has emerged as a real threat to the safety of motorists. That’s why the Tennessee Highway Patrol is taking a hard stance against any motorist who demonstrates aggressive, dangerous activities while driving in our state,” said Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips.

THP Colonel Lynn Pitts added, “Drivers should know any action on the road that endangers a person or property is considered aggressive driving. We’re saturating the roads with Troopers throughout the entire length of the H.A.R.M. campaign in an effort to identify and stop violators who commit these aggressive behaviors.”

THP is conducting multiple enforcement campaigns this Fourth of July holiday period, which begins at 6 p.m. Friday, July 2 and continues until midnight Sunday, July 4. In addition to the aggressive driving enforcement campaign, Troopers are active in the “100 Days of Summer HEAT,” a nationwide campaign targeting speeding motorists, impaired drivers and those not buckled up properly.

During last year’s Fourth of July holiday period there were 13 fatal crashes resulting in 13 deaths. Eight of the 13 killed were vehicle occupants and half of those were not wearing seat belts. All available Troopers will hit the roads this holiday weekend.

“The enforcement campaigns we’re conducting are in an effort to reduce the overall number of crashes and fatalities on Tennessee’s roadways, added Colonel Pitts. “We won’t stop when the Fourth of July holiday weekend is over either. All summer long, and in each of the state’s 95 counties, Troopers will make a concerted effort to stop aggressive and harmful driving activities.”

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**10 DIE IN TRAFFIC CRASHES IN TENNESSEE DURING 2004 FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY**

July 6, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- Preliminary figures from the Tennessee Department of Safety reveal 10 people were killed as a result of seven fatal motor vehicle crashes in Tennessee during the 2004 Fourth of July holiday period.

Six of the crashes were single-vehicle crashes; one was a multiple vehicle crash. Seven of the persons killed were not wearing a seat belt. Thirteen percent, or one, of the fatalities occurred in crashes where alcohol was indicated to be involved.

The seven fatal crashes occurred in Anderson, Cocke, Lawrence, Montgomery, Putnam, Rutherford and Wilson counties. The 2004 Fourth of July holiday was a 78-hour period, beginning 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 2 and ending at 11:59 Monday, July 5.

During the 2003 Fourth of July holiday period there were 13 fatal crashes resulting in 13 deaths.

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**THP'S SUMMER HEAT HALTS MORE THAN 19,000 UNSAFE DRIVERS****ENFORCEMENT BLITZ MAKING ROADS SAFER IN TENNESSEE THIS SUMMER**

July 15, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- The Tennessee Highway Patrol's (THP) stepped up enforcement during the "100 Days of Summer HEAT" is making a substantial impact on Tennessee's roadways. During the two Summer HEAT enforcement blitz periods already conducted, Troopers have issued a total of 19,786 citations and written warnings to drivers who have disregarded the rules of the road.

"While "100 Days of Summer HEAT" focuses on all road violations, THP is placing a special emphasis on speed and alcohol enforcement—two primary killers on the highways during the summer months," said Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips.

More than 10,000 moving citations have been issued during the Summer HEAT enforcement blitz. A vast majority, or 92 percent, were issued to speeding motorists. In addition, THP removed nearly one drunk driver per hour from the road during the two enforcement blitzes.

Preliminary numbers show that 500 vehicle occupants have died on Tennessee's roadways this year. Sixty-five percent of those were not wearing seat belts or were not properly restrained in a child restraint system. On July 1, Tennessee's primary seat belt law and changes in the child restraint law took effect. Violating these laws are a primary offense, meaning a law enforcement officer can cite a driver for that violation alone.

"Buckling up has been the law in Tennessee for years. The reason is simple – seat belts save lives," said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. "The changes in Tennessee's occupant protection laws are about the increasing safety for everyone on the roads. And the Tennessee Highway Patrol is stringently enforcing these new laws in order to save lives."

During the Summer HEAT enforcement campaign, THP has issued a combined total of 1,678 citations for seat belt and child restraint violations alone.

Summer HEAT enforcement activities also target commercial drivers. Almost 600 inspections have been conducted during the campaign with 106 drivers and vehicles placed out of service for violations discovered during the inspections.

The "100 Days of Summer HEAT" enforcement campaign continues. Troopers will again step up enforcement during the weekend of August 6 – 8 in all 95 counties.

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**TROOPERS CONTINUE “SUMMER HEAT” ENFORCEMENT BLITZ AUG. 6-8****THP ADDS WORK ZONES TO TARGETED ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

August 5, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) is sending a message to motorists traveling this summer – obey the rules of the road or be prepared for the HEAT.

THP is once again conducting the “100 Days of Summer HEAT” enforcement blitz this weekend, August 6-8. In addition to the focus on speeding motorists, impaired drivers and those not buckled up properly, Troopers will also aggressively patrol the work zones located throughout the state.

Last year in Tennessee, there were more than 5,919 work zone crashes resulting in 29 fatalities. National statistics show that work zone crashes tend to occur more frequently in the summer months. To bring added attention to the importance of work zone safety, the Governor’s Highway Safety office has produced a series of radio public service announcements.

“Raising motorists’ awareness of the deadly consequences that are a result of not following the rules of the road is the goal of Summer HEAT,” said Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips. “Work zone crashes have increased 67 percent in Tennessee during the past three years. It’s imperative, to both motorists and worker safety, that caution be exercised when traveling through a work zone.”

To date, the “100 Days of Summer HEAT” campaign, made possible by a grant from the Governor’s Highway Safety Office, has made a substantial impact on Tennessee’s roadways. During the two previous Summer HEAT enforcement blitzes in June and July, Troopers issued a total of 19,786 citations and written warnings to drivers. More specifically, Troopers removed nearly one drunk driver per hour from the road and stopped nearly 10,000 speeding motorists.

“Speed and alcohol are two of the most dangerous contributing factors in fatal crashes. In addition to the work zone patrols, Troopers will continue to target speeding and drunk drivers who are putting themselves and others at risk,” said Colonel Pitts.

Colonel Pitts added, “Buckling up is not only your best defense against injury in a crash, it’s the law. Troopers will continue to enforce the occupant protection laws that took effect July 1.”

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES



TROOPERS MAKING SCHOOL ZONES SAFE FOR KIDS HEADED BACK TO SCHOOL

ENFORCEMENT, BUS INSPECTIONS AND DRIVER TRAINING ALL PART OF THP'S EFFORTS

August 9, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- Children in communities across the state are boarding school buses and heading back to class, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) is watching out for them.

With more than 8,250 school buses transporting children to and from school each week, Troopers will frequently patrol school zones throughout the state enforcing traffic laws such as speeding, aggressive driving and passing a stopped school bus.

"School zones exist for a reason. An aggressive driver poses a tremendous threat to the safety of children getting on and off a school bus," said Tennessee Department of Safety Fred Phillips. "Compliance with school zone laws is something every driver should do voluntarily, but the department will do all it can to ensure children get to and from school safely."

In addition to enforcement efforts of Troopers, THP's pupil transportation section further ensures school children travel safely by inspecting school buses and training bus drivers. During last year's school season, a total of 10,851 bus inspections were conducted and 11,404 bus drivers were trained.

"Through enforcement, bus inspections and driver training, the Tennessee Highway Patrol is prepared to stop any actions that may cause harm to school children," said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. "Motorists can do their part to by paying attention and obeying the laws when driving through a school zone."

All school zones are unique, but there are some universal actions that drivers can take that will protect children everywhere. Following are some safe driving tips for traveling through school zones:

- **Slow down.** Obey the posted speed limit in a school zone at all times. If conditions warrant, such as bad weather or poor visibility, driver even slower than the speed posted.
- **Use caution.** Children are hard to see at times. Avoid backing up, changing lanes or making turns in a school zone.
- **Never pass a stopped school bus.** Not only is passing a stopped school bus dangerous, it's against the law. All drivers must come to a full and complete stop until the bus driver deactivates the warning lights and stop sign arm.
- **Observe special instructions.** Many school zones are monitored by crossing guards. Remember they are there to direct the students, not the traffic. It's the driver's responsibility to follow the signs and signals in a school zone.

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**THP URGES LABOR DAY TRAVELERS TO DRIVE SAFELY****TROOPERS OUT IN FORCE DURING HOLIDAY WEEKEND, TARGETING AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR**

September 1, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- With countless motorists expected to hit the road this weekend for the Labor Day holiday, the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) will continue its aggressive enforcement efforts that have been in place throughout the busy summer months.

Beginning Friday, September 3 at 6 p.m. through Monday, September 6 at midnight, all available Troopers will patrol the roads in an effort to save lives and prevent injuries. Troopers will continue to place a special emphasis on speeding, safety belt and impaired driving violations.

“Increased travel heightens the likelihood of increased traffic crashes and fatalities,” said Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips. “During last year’s Labor Day holiday, 10 people lost their lives on Tennessee’s roadways. As we come to the close of the summer season, I’m asking all Troopers to continue their aggressive enforcement efforts in an effort to keep all motorists safe.”

From June to August THP conducted the “100 Days of Summer HEAT” enforcement campaign, which made a substantial impact on Tennessee’s roadways. During the three separate enforcement blitzes of the HEAT program, Troopers:

- Issued a citation every 27 seconds
- Cited a driver every 53 seconds for a hazardous moving violation and every 55 seconds for a non-moving violation
- Arrested a DUI offender every 55 minutes
- Put a revoked driver in jail every one hour and 12 minutes
- Issued a citation to a speeding driver every 59 seconds
- Issued a citation to a driver committing other hazardous moving violations every 12 minutes (Reckless Driving, Improper Passing, Following Too Closely, etc)
- Cited a driver for not properly restraining a child passenger every 27 minutes
- Issued a safety belt citation every 4 minutes
- Conducted a commercial vehicle inspection every 11.7 minutes
- Assisted nearly 12 motorists every hour

“The efforts of each member of the Tennessee Highway Patrol this summer has been tremendous,” added Commissioner Phillips. “As Troopers prepare for the last major holiday of the summer season, the department is also planning enforcement strategies to employ throughout the remainder of the year.”

Preliminary numbers show 760 motorists have died on Tennessee’s roads during the first eight months of the year. Nearly 65 percent of those killed were not properly restrained. Historically, September and October have produced some of the highest number of traffic related fatalities in Tennessee.

“The THP will maintain its active and aggressive enforcement of safety restraint and all other harmful violations on Tennessee’s highways,” said Tennessee Highway Patrol Colonel Lynn Pitts. “It’s imperative to the safety of all drivers and passengers that Troopers stop the harmful behavior exhibited on the roads.”



THP TO COMBAT LOW SEAT BELT USE AMONG TRUCK DRIVERS

LAUNCHES "SEAT" ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN TO SAVE LIVES

September 30, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- Drivers of commercial vehicles are among the lowest users of seat belts – a tool that greatly reduces the risk of injury and increases survival in motor vehicle crashes. To reverse that trend, the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) is launching "Safety Enforcement and Trucks" (SEAT), a statewide seat belt enforcement campaign geared specifically toward truck drivers.

Beginning October 1 Troopers will closely monitor truck drivers who violate state and federal laws that make it mandatory to wear a seat belt. During the three-month SEAT campaign, Troopers will track seat belt usage among truck drivers and issue citations to those not buckled up.

"The safety of all motorists is the department's primary goal," said Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips. "Of the 1,193 motorists who were killed on Tennessee's roads last year, nearly 10 percent of these deaths resulted from crashes involving a commercial vehicle. While the new enforcement campaign focuses on truck drivers buckling up, it's important for everyone to wear their seat belt. It's simply a matter a safety."

The SEAT campaign was developed by THP to help achieve an overall goal of increasing seat belt usage among commercial drivers by 10 percent in the coming year. While the seat belt usage rate has risen nationally to 79 percent, the usage rate among commercial vehicle drivers remains far below at 48 percent according to a recent report by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

"We'll do what it takes to send the message to truckers that seat belt usage is a must in Tennessee," said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. "Unfortunately the only thing that gets the attention of some drivers is a citation. But a ticket is a small sacrifice compared to the injuries and fatalities that can result from not wearing a seat belt."

Troopers will patrol all 95 counties across the state placing special emphasis on areas with a high volume of commercial vehicle traffic. To further monitor seat belt usage of commercial drivers, THP will use video cameras placed at strategic locations. The SEAT campaign will also provide an opportunity for Troopers to provide each violator stopped with educational information on the importance of wearing a safety belt.



TROOPERS REMIND MOTORISTS TO SHARE THE ROAD WITH SCHOOL BUSES

THP OBSERVES NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 18, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- Each day more than 8,250 school buses transport nearly 583,000 students to and from schools across Tennessee. Although school buses are one of the safest forms of transportation in the state, crashes and injuries do occur.

During National School Bus Safety Week, which runs October 17-23, the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) is sending Troopers back to school. The THP's Pupil Transportation division has partnered with school officials in Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Shelby and Washington to place Troopers on buses throughout School Bus Safety Week. Troopers will ensure motorists are obeying the laws and exercising caution when encountering a school bus.

"Bus safety is not a one-week issue, it's a year-round concern of the Tennessee Highway Patrol," said Tennessee Department of Safety (TDOS) Commissioner Fred Phillips. "While bus travel is one of the safest forms of transportation on Tennessee's roads, crashes and injuries do occur. We're asking for everyone's help in creating safe conditions for the thousands of children who rely on school buses to get them to school and back home safely everyday."

TDOS's latest statistics reveal from 1998-2002 there was an average of nearly 619 crashes per year involving a school bus. For that same time period there were a total of 11 fatalities. Four, or 36 percent, resulted in the death of a bus passenger.

"We frequently receive reports of motorists passing a school bus," said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. "Not only is it illegal to pass a stopped bus, it creates a potentially deadly hazard for the student. School bus safety is serious business and enforcement of school bus laws is a priority of the Highway Patrol."

Stiff fines accompany the violation of school bus safety laws in Tennessee. Violators can face up to a \$1,000 fine for passing a stopped school bus, with the minimum a \$250 fine. Motorists need to learn and heed the flashing light system of a school bus. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop. Red flashing lights and the extended stop arm indicate the bus has stopped to load or unload children.

In addition to the enforcement efforts of Troopers and local law enforcement agencies, the department's Pupil Transportation section further ensures the safe transportation of students by inspecting school buses and training bus drivers. During last year's school season, 10,851 buses were inspected and 11,404 bus drivers were trained.

"Qualified and well-trained drivers are the main defense against school bus fatalities, but every driver plays a part in protecting our children," added Commissioner Phillips. "All motorists need to pay attention to bus traffic not just this week, but throughout the school year."



TROOPERS MOBILIZE AS TENNESSEANS HIT THE ROAD FOR THANKSGIVING

CHECKPOINTS AND INCREASED PATROLS AMONG EFFORTS TO SAVE LIVES

November 22, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) is preparing for the busy Thanksgiving holiday weekend with increased enforcement activities. Troopers will conduct sobriety checkpoints and heavily patrol various locations statewide throughout the official 102-hour holiday period, which begins at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 24 and runs through Sunday, November 28.

THP reminds motorists that the Thanksgiving holiday weekend is traditionally one of the busiest on the roadways. With more traffic, the risk of crashes and injuries increase. During the 2003 holiday weekend, a total of 17 individuals lost their life as a result of a motor vehicle crash — that equates to one death every six hours.

“Before you get in your vehicle to travel to your Thanksgiving celebration, remember to protect yourself and your family. Slow down, buckle up and never drink and drive. These simple actions save lives,” said Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips.

THP’s increased enforcement efforts are part of a nationwide traffic safety initiative, Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort), which targets three leading factors in fatal crashes: speeding, impaired driving and failure to use safety restraint devices.

“Enforcement is critical to making the roads safer for everyone, but it’s not the only element in saving lives,” added THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. “Help us eliminate any aggressive driving behaviors, including speeding and impaired driving, by reporting unsafe drivers to THP.”

Motorists can help Troopers keep the roads safe by reporting erratic drivers to the THP hotline. Simply call *THP (*847) from any cell phone and you’ll be connected to the nearest dispatch center. Callers may remain anonymous and should provide a description of the vehicle, location, direction of travel and license number, if possible.

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES



2004 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SAFER FOR TENNESSEE MOTORISTS

November 29, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- The 2004 Thanksgiving holiday proved safer than last year's holiday for Tennessee motorists.

Preliminary figures from the Tennessee Department of Safety (TDOS) reveal 10 people were killed as a result of motor vehicle crashes, as opposed to 17 during the same period in 2003. None of the 10 fatalities occurred in crashes where alcohol was involved.

"The Tennessee Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies statewide remained vigilant throughout the 102-hour Thanksgiving holiday period," said TDOS Commissioner Fred Phillips. "It appears that motorists heeded our message about not drinking and driving – and for that we're all thankful."

Two of the 10 persons killed this Thanksgiving holiday were pedestrians. Of the eight motor vehicle occupants killed, five persons, or 62.5 percent, were not wearing a seat belt.

The nine fatal crashes occurred in Bradley, Claiborne, Henry, Jefferson, Madison, Marion, Robertson, Tipton and Williamson counties. Six were single-vehicle crashes and three were multiple vehicle crashes.

2004 PRELIMINARY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY REPORT
2004 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Begins: 6:00 PM NOVEMBER 24, 2004
Ends: 11:59 PM NOVEMBER 28, 2004
102-HOUR HOLIDAY PERIOD

- **Fatal Crashes = 9**
 - 6 of the crashes were single vehicle crashes
 - 3 of the crashes were multiple vehicle crashes
- **Fatalities = 10**
 - 8 of the people killed were vehicle occupants
 - 5 of the occupants were not wearing safety restraints.
 - No child passengers were killed
 - 2 Pedestrians were killed
 - 0 (00%) of the fatalities occurred in crashes where "had been drinking" was indicated.

HIGHWAY	FATAL CRASHES	FATALITIES
Interstate	1	1
State Route	6	7
City Street	0	0
County Road	2	2

- **The Number of fatalities for last year's 102-hour holiday period was 17.**



TDOT, TDOS MAP STRATEGY TO KEEP ROADS CLEAR AND SAFE

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT OUTLINES TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

December 10, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- The Tennessee Departments of Transportation (TDOT) and Safety (TDOS) have reaffirmed their commitment to the quick clearance of highway incidents while maintaining the safety of all motorists on the roadways.

TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely and TDOS Commissioner Fred Phillips signed a memorandum of understanding today that helps fulfill the mission of both departments to keep traffic moving in a safe and efficient manner. The agreement provides guidelines on how to address issues including response, clearance, communication, and training procedures. Additionally, the agreement focuses on clearing highway incidents from controlled-access roadways.

“With the amount of traffic in Tennessee increasing daily, the number of incidents occurring on the highways is impacting travel,” said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. “The agreement provides the foundation for TDOT and Safety to jointly address the behavioral and environmental aspects that will help alleviate – in the safest manner possible – the congestion and closures that result from various incidents.”

“Increasing the safety of motorists, first responders and transportation personnel when responding to an incident on the highway is our primary concern,” said TDOS Commissioner Fred Phillips. “With closer coordination and cooperative planning, we hope to not only speed the clearance of incidents, but to prevent them from occurring.”

First executed in 2001, the highway clearance agreement has helped to coordinate the incident-clearance efforts of Tennessee Highway Patrol Troopers and transportation officials. The new agreement builds on the previous efforts and incorporates a number of recommendations from the “Strategic Plan for Highway Incident Management” and the 511 initiatives.

*A copy of the actual agreement can be found on the TDOT web site in the media room at www.tennessee.gov/tdot.



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY OFFERS TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING DURING THE WINTER SEASON

December 22, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- The Tennessee Department of Safety (TDOS) reminds motorists that when the forecast includes snow, sleet and ice, travel on the roadways can turn hazardous. TDOS urges motorists to prepare before they hit the roads this winter season.

“Winter driving can turn dangerous in a matter of moments. By being prepared, driving defensively and obeying Tennessee’s motor vehicle laws, motorists can reach their destinations safely,” said TDOS Commissioner Fred Phillips.

TDOS offers the following tips for winter driving:

- Prepare your vehicle for the winter season. Check to make sure there are no mechanical problems.
- Fill-up. Before traveling make sure your gas tank is full.
- Slow down. Driving too fast for the weather conditions outside is a cause of many crashes.
- Always buckle-up. A seat belt offers protection against drivers who are tense or distracted due to the weather conditions.
- Never drink and drive. Mixing drinking and driving is always a deadly combination.
- Don’t tailgate. Leave room between your vehicle and the one ahead of you in poor visibility and slippery conditions.
- Allow plenty of time for travel. Trips in winter can take longer than normal, especially if you encounter a wintry mix.
- If possible, avoid the roads altogether when bad weather strikes. Stay home until the weather improves and the roads clear.
- In case there are weather delays, carry a cellular phone for notifying those expecting your arrival or in case of emergencies.

“If a motorist experiences any problems while on Tennessee’s roadways this winter, the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) is ready to assist,” added THP Colonel Lynn Pitts.

By dialing *THP (*847) from a cellular phone, drivers are connected to the closest THP dispatch center and a Trooper is notified of the incident. Motorists should provide the THP operator with a location, a description of their vehicle and purpose of the call.



STATE TROOPERS SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS ON THE ROAD

BACK-TO-BACK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS BRING ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT FROM THP

December 22, 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn., --- Last year during the official Christmas and New Year's holidays a total of 35 motorists lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes. To make this year's holiday season safe for all, Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) Troopers will spend their holidays on the road.

"The Tennessee Highway Patrol will do everything within its power to ensure motorists on Tennessee roadways have a safe and happy holiday season," said THP Colonel Lynn Pitts. "We've planned for aggressive enforcement methods during the back-to-back holiday weekends. In addition to the stringent enforcement of all motor vehicle laws, Troopers will remain highly visible and conduct sobriety and driver license checkpoints in various communities across the state."

The official 54-hour Christmas holiday period begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 24 and continues until midnight Sunday, December 26. During the 2003 Christmas holiday, 12 people were killed, including one pedestrian.

The official New Year's holiday period begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 31 and continues until midnight Sunday, January 2. During the 2003 New Year's holiday 23 people were killed, including three pedestrians.

"Drive responsibly when traveling to and from your holiday celebrations," added THP Colonel Pitts. "Plan ahead, obey all traffic laws and never drink and drive. Mixing alcohol and driving is a potentially deadly combination not only to yourself, but to others as well."

Alcohol played a factor in a significant number of crashes during last year's holiday season. Forty-two percent of the fatalities that occurred during last year's Christmas holiday were alcohol related. The number of alcohol-related crashes grew to 57 percent during the New Year's holiday.

The use of safety belts and child restraint devices is also a concern of the Highway Patrol. During the 2003 Christmas and New Year's holiday periods, a total of 16 (51 percent) of motor vehicle occupants killed were not wearing seat belts.

"One of the most effective ways to prevent injury or death in the event of a crash is your seatbelt. Remember to buckle up. Not only is it the safe thing to do, it's the law," said Colonel Pitts.

2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**DRIVE TO ENFORCE SEAT-BELT LAW STARTS**

May 11, 2004

Tennessean, The (Nashville, TN)

Section: Local

Page: 3B

Author: STAFF

If you don't buckle up, you might get a ticket - or worse, lose your life, state safety officials said. Until June 6, the state's law enforcement officers will be on increased watch for seat-belt violations as part of the nationwide Click It or Ticket program, the Governor's Highway Safety Office announced yesterday. Emphasis will be put on making sure teens and young adults buckle up.

Currently, 69% of the state's population buckles up. It is estimated that seat belts save the lives of more than 14,000 people a year nationally and save about \$50 billion in medical care, lost productivity and other injury-related costs.

"Tennessee law enforcement will be showing zero tolerance for anyone violating safety belt laws, as a way to protect everyone from losing their lives in a crash," said Chuck Taylor, director of the safety office.

You can be pulled over and ticketed for seat-belt violations:

- If children under 4 are not properly seated in a child passenger restraint system.
- If children 4-15 are not restrained by an age-appropriate safety device.
- If you are a driver 16-17 and are not wearing a seat belt.
- If you are over 18 and are pulled over for a traffic stop while not wearing a seat belt.
- STAFF REPORTS

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THP PLACES MORE TROOPERS IN CONSTRUCTION ZONES

AUTHORITIES TRY TO REIN IN CRASHES NEAR ROAD PROJECTS

April 7, 2004

Paper: Tennessean, The (Nashville, TN)

Section: Local

Page: 6B

Author: MARGO RIVERS, Staff Writer

Construction project manager Jeremy Mitchell was recently within inches of losing his life when a semitruck nearly ran him over on the Interstate 40 West on-ramp near the Robertson Avenue exit. "The ramp was closed. I was talking to a police officer and had my back to the traffic," Mitchell of Ray Bell Construction said. "I took one step back, turned around and the semi was right in my face." The truck never stopped. A startled Mitchell, who is working on the I-40/Briley Parkway construction project, said he was not surprised with the incident because "it usually happens."

Incidents such as these are why the Tennessee Highway Patrol, in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, has placed more troopers around the state's 432 construction zones, 16 of which are interstate sites, including 10 in Middle Tennessee. The increased security is part of National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, which started Monday.

Officials are hoping to decrease the number of deaths and accidents as a result. Since 2001, the number of crashes occurring in work zones statewide jumped from 3,552 to 5,919. "Last year in Tennessee, 29 people were killed in work crashes," Fred Phillips, Department of Safety commissioner, said in a news release announcing the safety awareness week. "The most tragic thing is that work-zone fatalities are preventable deaths. Motorists need to remember that a work zone exists to improve the roadways."

Lt. Ronnie Shirley, a THP supervisor in Rutherford and Williamson counties, said motorists are overlooking signs that are meant to help them maneuver through the work zones. "They're also tailgating, which is a big problem," Shirley said.

A recent National Highway Transportation Safety Administration study showed that work-zone crashes occurred most often on weekdays, during the daylight hours, in the summer and fall months and in zones with at least a 45 mph speed limit. "The biggest problem is that people won't slow down," said David Redden, TDOT Regional Three construction supervisor. "They won't stop when you flag them down. Then you get lots of verbal abuse because they're not happy when you stop them."

The speed limit through a highway construction work zone is usually reduced. Shirley said he expects that troopers will be writing more tickets this week through Saturday, when the awareness week concludes.

THP also plans to maintain its visibility in work zones, said Beth Denton, THP spokeswoman.

Carpenter Robbie Curtis of Ray Bell Construction said he already noticed a difference in the number of cars whizzing by him at the Briley Parkway/Robertson Avenue bridge project. "It has slowed them down. (More enforcement) is good since I'm out here working on the roads."

Motorist Chrystal Bennett said she also has noticed the difference and admits to letting up on the gas pedal since seeing more police on the roads. "I've noticed traffic slowing down mainly where police are located. Several months ago, it didn't matter if the road crews were out, they would still speed," she said. "I don't care to get tickets that I can't pay."

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2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**TROOPERS STEP UP EFFORT TO CATCH SPEEDERS, DRUNKS**

June 18, 2004

Paper: Tennessean, The (Nashville, TN)

Section: Local

Page: 5B

Author: STAFF

In an effort to decrease fatal traffic accidents, the Tennessee Highway Patrol will launch an enforcement campaign this weekend targeting speeders, impaired drivers and those not wearing seat belts. The "100 Days of Summer Heat" will take place this weekend, July 2-4 and Aug. 5-7, the state Department of Safety said in a statement.

Across more than 15,000 miles of state and federal highways, state troopers will be conducting sobriety checkpoints and targeting specific areas.

"Obeying the speed limit, buckling up and driving sober unquestionably saves lives," department Commissioner Fred Phillips said in the statement.

There were more than 1,100 fatalities on Tennessee's roads last year.

- STAFF REPORTS

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES PREPARED FOR START OF SCHOOL

August 16, 2004

Paper: Tennessean, The (Nashville, TN)

Section: Local

Page: 2B

Author: DIANE LONG

The start of school touches students, parents and even the law enforcement agencies. The Tennessee Highway Patrol is on alert for drivers who could endanger children by speeding, driving aggressively or passing one of the state's 8,250 school buses as it loads or unloads students.

Drivers in or near school zones should pay special attention by slowing down to the posted speed limit, watching for students and obeying any crossing guards as they direct traffic.

In Metro, 59 uniformed police officers are based in the school system's middle and high schools. The officers help in any emergency as well as teach classes in gang and drug resistance.

In addition, nearly 180 school crossing guards will be stationed near schools when their doors open today. Motorists should be careful to observe the city's 15 mph speed limit in school zones.

o The Sumner County Family YMCA is sponsoring a back-to-school drive to provide school supplies for area kids.

Throughout the month of August, the YMCA will be collecting such school-related items as backpacks, pencils, notebooks, rulers or crayons for students in need. Donors can drop off their supply gifts by Aug. 31 at the YMCA, 102 Bluegrass Commons Blvd. in Hendersonville. Call 826-9622 for more information.

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2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES



TRAFFIC STOP RESULTS IN SEIZURE OF 66 POUNDS OF POT

August 21, 2004

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Section: Local

Page: 6B

Author: STAFF

A state trooper who was stopping a driver for failing to yield discovered a yield of a whole different kind. Trooper Keith Ray found 66 pounds of marijuana in the car's trunk as he pulled the car over on I-40 east near the Davidson-Cheatham county line around 5 p.m. Thursday, said Beth Denton, spokeswoman for the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

"During the interview with the driver, the driver seemed nervous," Denton said. "When he asked for consent to search, the driver gave that."

The pot was found in two duffel bags in the trunk of the car driven by Juan Barrera of Texas, authorities said.

The marijuana was in bricks that also contained laundry detergent, which gave off a strong scent, Denton said.

Barrera was charged with felony drug possession with intent to sell and is being held in Metro jail in lieu of \$1 million bond.

Metro vice detectives assisted the investigation and later set up a controlled drug sale, Denton said. Ahad M. Arif, 22, of Nashville was arrested and accused of attempting to purchase the drugs at a Shell gas station on Bell Road, Denton said.

Two cars and \$2,101 were seized, Denton said.

Two other passengers in Barrera's car, whose identities were not available, also from Texas, also were arrested on drug charges, Denton said.

- CHRISTIAN BOTTORFF

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2004 NEWS RELEASES AND ARTICLES

**DRIVERS MUST MOVE OVER FOR POLICE, AMBULANCES****\$50 FINE FOR NOT YIELDING LANE, STOPPING**

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Making room on the road for emergency vehicles working a crash scene and for police writing tickets used to be just common courtesy. Now you can get a \$50 ticket for not doing so. "One of the most scary things in this line of work is stepping out of your car on the side of the road and being a foot from the fog line with your back to traffic," said Metro police Officer Rob Conley. "We don't want to be run over."

The "move-over" law was passed by the state legislature in 2003, and for the past year officers were told to issue warning citations. It's unclear how many citations, if any, were issued because state and Metro police citations are not tracked by type. Starting last Thursday, officers could start giving motorists tickets that carry a \$50 fine.

Motorists should move to the left lane if they're on a four-lane highway or slow down if changing lanes is impossible or unsafe, the law says. The move-over law also permits officers to give tickets carrying a \$50 fine to drivers who don't yield when emergency vehicles with flashing lights and blaring sirens are trying to pass.

In those situations, motorists should drive as close as possible to the right hand edge or curb of the roadway and stop until the emergency vehicle passes, the law says. That law's been on the books since 1955 but previously did not impose a fine on violators, said Beth Denton, spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Safety.

The move-over law will make roads safer for troopers, cops, ambulance personnel and even the transportation crews that man the lime-yellow HELP trucks, Denton said. The HELP trucks cruise the interstates looking for stranded motorists and trying to ease traffic.

The law was inspired in part by officers' being killed or injured while at the side of the road working crimes and traffic incidents, said Tennessee Highway Patrol Capt. Mike Walker, director of research, planning and development. Enforcement could be tricky because officers are busy dealing with an accident or writing a speeder a ticket. "We'll take care of first things first," Walker said. But if they are able, officers can issue tickets or use their radios to alert other officers of motorists who don't move over or slow down, Walker said.

Conley said educating the public - not writing tickets - was his main goal. "This isn't something so we can write a bunch of tickets. It's a common-sense thing," said Conley, who had a state trooper friend in Oregon who was killed when she was hit while working on a roadside.

The new law

What it says: When motorists see an emergency vehicle with flashing lights on at the side of the road, they are required to move to the left lane (if it's a four-lane road with two lanes in each direction) if they can do so safely, or to slow down if changing lanes is impossible or unsafe.

Whom to make room for: Police and state troopers' cars, ambulances, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles with flashing lights; Tennessee Department of Transportation lime-yellow HELP trucks; and tow trucks. Penalty: \$50 fine.

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Tennessee Highway Patrol
2004 IACP National Law Enforcement Challenge

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